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# EPA InSight

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FEBRUARY 1993 EPA-175-N-93-002 NEWS FOR, ABOUT, AND BY EPA EMPLOYEES

*An Interview With Carol Browner*

## Working Together: A Key To EPA Success

**D**oes this face look familiar? You may have seen her buying soup at the Jamaican bakery or walking through Waterside Mall meeting EPA employees. Or on C-Span last month when she appeared before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works for her confirmation hearing. She is **Carol Martha Browner**, EPA's new Administrator.



door open, throws in a hand grenade, and then walks in to shoot who's left." When asked for her reaction to this comment, the Administrator responded: "I've been waiting for someone to ask me about that quote! Would you believe I've never been in a meeting with that man?" She added that she had no idea why the individual made this remark, but believes that anyone who has worked with her would not agree with him.

"I don't want to meet just division directors and office directors. I want to meet everyone." This was the Administrator's response when asked about her get-acquainted "tours" of the Headquarters facilities. She said she considered doing what **Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt** was doing to meet employees: greet them at the entrance of the agency's building. "But we have 17 entrances here," said Ms. Browner, "so I decided to do a little management-by-walking-around."

When asked about her priorities for the Agency, Ms. Browner mentioned two: **integrity** and **pollution prevention**.

Employee reaction to the Administrator's visits has been very positive. Some expressed surprise with her friendliness and down-to-earth personality. Why the surprise? Many employees said they had never met an EPA administrator before and so did not expect to meet Ms. Browner. Others contrasted their experience with a recent quote in *The Washington Post* from a Florida businessman about Ms. Browner's style: "She kicks the

She wants EPA to be respected for the integrity of its regulatory decision-making process. "Consistency and timeliness can only be achieved when we work together and with integrity," she said. The Administrator also said EPA needs to perform its functions "within the framework of pollution prevention." By her definition, such a framework includes two important components:

- **Short- and long-term cost assessments** of the impact of Agency regulations on the regulated community, and
- **Cooperative working relationships** within and outside the Agency.

Ms. Browner said she doesn't feel she has been a victim of a "glass ceiling" during her career. "But," she added quickly, "I strongly believe that one exists—for women as well as for minorities." She said she has seen the effects of a "glass ceiling" in other organizations, so she plans to give this matter "serious attention" as EPA Administrator. Ms. Browner noted that she had several mentors during her career who were genuinely interested in helping her advance: **Vice President Al Gore**; **Florida Governor Lawton Chiles**; and **former Florida Governor LeRoy Collins**, whom she described as "courageous" for having integrated the state's public school system in the early 1960s.

Administrator Browner usually begins her day with an early-morning jog. "If I waited until *after* work to do my exercise, I'd never get it done," she said. She also keeps fit by riding her bike and caring for her family of two: a five-

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# Heads Up

A QUICK LOOK AT EPA NEWS AROUND THE NATION

## EPA LABORATORIES

■ **Atmospheric Research and Exposure Assessment Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, NC** ♦ Region 2 and the Office of Research and Development recently asked AREAL to conduct an **acid aerosol exposure study** in Catano, Puerto Rico. Residents of Catano have complained of serious respiratory problems, including pediatric asthma. As a first step, AREAL will investigate sulfuric acid exposures from a local power plant. (Contact: **Bob Burton**, 919-541-3077.)

■ **Environmental Research Laboratory, Corvallis, OR** ♦ EPA's Wetlands Research Program and Portland State University recently formed a science/education partnership. This summer, field teams of ERL-C scientists and local teachers will gather data from 150 wetlands in the Portland area to compare **restored and natural wetlands** in similar settings. Through this effort, teachers can learn valuable research skills that they can share with their students. The results of the research are expected to help resource managers to better restore damaged sites and to create new wetlands similar to natural wetlands. (Contact: **Nancy Terhaar**, 503-754-4601.)

■ **Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory, Cincinnati, OH** ♦ Under Safe Drinking Water Act regulations, states were to begin monitoring last month for **asbestos** and **TCDD** (2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzodioxin) in drinking water. Because of the specialized nature of this work and the cost of the required equipment, EMSL-Cinci estimates that fewer than 200 laboratories nationwide presently conduct these analyses. In fact, many states have no laboratories with this capability. EMSL-Cinci conducts training for regional and state personnel who certify laboratories for this purpose. (Contact: **Jack Pfaff**, 513-569-7397.)

■ **Environmental Research Laboratory, Ada, OK** ♦ ERL-Ada is working with the University of Miami to develop a **risk-management strategy for wellhead protection**. Once contaminant concentrations in pumped water are estimated, ERL-Ada scientists can define maximum allowable contaminant levels at the wellhead. The risk of exceeding these levels for land use controls can then be calculated. (Contact: **Dr. Dave Burden**, 405-436-8606.)

## EPA REGIONS

■ **Region 5** ♦ For its work on a cooperative demonstration project to clean up leaking underground storage tanks, **BP Oil Co.** Cleveland recently received an award from Region 5. The project resulted in a new technology called **airsparging**, which can reduce cleanup time of storage tanks from two years to eight months. **Gerald Phillips**, who heads up the Underground Storage Tanks Office, says that in Region 5 alone storage tanks release almost 280,000 gallons of petroleum into the environment every day. (Contact: **John Rapsys**, 312-886-6693.)

■ **Region 6** ♦ The U.S. District Court for the Northern

District of Texas, Fort Worth Division, ordered Roger L. Tannery to pay EPA over \$13 million, **the largest penalty ever awarded for non-compliance under CERCLA (the Comprehensive, Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, or Superfund)**. The suit was filed to recover EPA's cleanup costs for a removal action at the American Thio-Chem site in Fort Worth and the civil penalty for Tannery's failure to respond to a Request for Information issued under section 104(e) of CERCLA. The civil penalty represents the maximum penalty of **\$25,000 per day** for the **499 days** of Tannery's non-compliance. (Contact **Roger Meacham**, 214-655-2200.)

■ **Region 8** ♦ Top officials of EPA Region 8 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6 recently signed a **first-of-its-kind Memorandum of Understanding**. The MOU calls for improved coordination between the two agencies on natural resource protection and restoration issues, such as threatened and endangered species protection and pesticide compliance with federal requirements. EPA and FWS will meet at least annually to develop and review workplans. The two agencies have also agreed to provide technical assistance in emergency responses and field sampling activities. (Contact: **Bill Wuerthele**, 303-293-1586.)

## EPA HEADQUARTERS

■ **Office of the General Counsel** ♦ OGC is conducting a free, two-hour workshop on **CBI (Confidential Business Information)** policies and procedures. Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, **February 16**, Muir Room (EPA Education Center), 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM. Instructors are **Rafael DeLeon, Hale Hawbecker, and Dan Sadowsky**. (Contact: **Rosezella Canty-Letsome**, 202-260-4550.)

■ **Office of Information Resources Management, OARM** ♦ OIRM is sponsoring **specialized security training** on **February 17 and 18** in the EPA Auditorium from 2 PM to 3 PM for SIRMOS and System Managers responsible for computer systems designated as "sensitive." *The Computer Security Act of 1987 requires this training...* OIRM is also sponsoring **computer security awareness and training sessions** in 1993. The next one will be held on Tuesday, **February 23**, in the EPA Auditorium. Here's the schedule: System Managers are invited to come either from 9 AM to 10 AM or 1 PM to 2 PM; System Users, from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM or 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM. (Contact: **Don McGinnis**, 202-260-8671.)



## EARTH DAY '93 IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Volunteers are needed for Earth Day events! If you would like to lend a helping hand, please contact your local Earth Day Coordinator. At EPA Headquarters, employees are encouraged to jot down their specific area of interest and send it to Earth Day Coordinator **Beth Taylor**, OAR, Mail Code 6602J.

# Black History Month At EPA

## EPA Signs Agreements With Two Black Universities

On December 15, EPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with **Dr. Franklyn G. Jenifer, President of Howard University** in



Dr. Jenifer

Washington, DC. The MOU is intended to spur improvements in the following areas:

- The quality of science and technical education at Howard
- The relevance of

Howard's research projects to EPA's environmental mission

- The problem of under-equipped university research facilities
- The number of African-American and other minority students electing graduate study and research careers in science, engineering, finance, and mathematics. The MOU will be managed by "Campus Executive" **Doug Campt**, Office of Pesticide Programs, OPPTS.

On December 17, EPA signed an MOU with **Chancellor Edward B. Fort** of another well-known HBCU (Historically Black College or University), **North Carolina Agricultural and Technical (A&T) State**



Dr. Fort

University in Greensboro, NC. As with the MOU with Howard, this event was sponsored by EPA's Academic Relations Program, which is designed to:

- Formalize and strengthen relationships with colleges and universities

- Enhance the education and training of students
- Attract the "best and brightest" faculty and graduates who represent the cultural diversity of our nation.

**Bruce Jordan**, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, OAR (Research Triangle Park, NC), is the

"Campus Executive." **Sheila Milliken**, also with OAQPS, is the Program Director and an alumna of North Carolina A&T State University.

For more information, please contact **Dinah Griggsby**, OHRM, 202-260-3305.

### *The History Of Black History Month*

In 1926, **Dr. Carter G. Woodson**, a Harvard Ph.D. and historian, started "Negro History Week" in Washington, DC. Often called the "Father of Black History" in America, Dr. Woodson was very aware of the power of symbolism in the American psyche. So he chose to celebrate this event during the week in February when the birthdays of both **Abraham Lincoln** and **Frederick Douglass** occurred (February 12 and 20, respectively). Douglass was a well-known black leader, journalist, and statesman, as well as Lincoln's contemporary. This local event caught on over the years until it became a nationwide observation. In 1976, as part of the American Bicentennial celebration, "Negro History Week" was expanded and renamed "**Black History Month**."

EPA is celebrating Black History Month throughout the Agency with a series of programs and activities. For more information about these events, please contact your local Black Employment Program Manager.

### Environmental Quote Of The Month

"The environmental movement has passed from the Messianic phase to a more mature phase. It's harder to tell the good guys from the bad guys. When **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, sat down at that diner in Tuscaloosa, the issue was as clear as the sky over Arizona. Now civil rights issues include affirmative action, quotas, and so on. They're much more complicated. The same is true of environmental questions."

—**David Sive**, quoted in Peter Borelli, ed., *Crossroads*, 1988

# That Was The Week...

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In the final days of the Bush Administration, EPA made over 30 announcements on controversial issues, including the proposed phaseout of methyl bromide and the proposed use of reformulated fuel. As *EPA InSight* went to press, all of the issues mentioned in this feature are proceeding as planned.

## EPA Says Secondhand Smoke Is Class A Carcinogen

On January 7, former EPA Administrator **Bill Reilly** announced the final conclusions of EPA's study of the respiratory health effects of passive smoking. The study concluded that Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS), also known as secondhand smoke, is a **human lung carcinogen** responsible for about 3,000 lung cancer deaths annually among U.S. non-smokers. The study also concluded that passive smoking results in serious respiratory problems for infants and young children.

Tobacco smoke has long been recognized as a major cause of death and disease, especially lung cancer and chronic respiratory disease in smokers. In recent years, there has been concern that non-smokers may also be at increased risk as a result of their exposure to the smoke exhaled

by smokers and given off by the burning end of cigarettes, pipes, and cigars. This smoke contains more than 4,000 substances, at least 43 of which cause cancer in humans or animals.

Following a second review of the study last year, EPA's **Science Advisory Board** fully endorsed the risk assessment, including the conclusion that ETS should be classified as a known human carcinogen—officially called an EPA Class A carcinogen, the Agency's category of greatest scientific certainty for known or suspected carcinogens.

EPA has no authority to regulate smoking (the authority rests with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor) and its report is not binding on any government agency or private organization. In cooperation with OSHA and other agencies, however, EPA plans to carry out an

education and outreach program over the next two years to inform the public about the health risks of ETS and other indoor air pollutants.

EPA's Office of Health and Environmental Assessment, ORD, prepared the 530-page report, with major support from the Indoor Air Division, OAR. The report was prepared under authority of Title IV of Superfund (the Radon Gas and Indoor Air Quality Research Act of 1986), which directs EPA to conduct a research and information dissemination program on all aspects of indoor air quality.

Copies of the final report, "Respiratory Health Effects of Passive Smoking: Lung Cancer and Other Disorders" (EPA/600/6-90/006F) are available by calling EPA's Center for Environmental Research Information, 513-569-7562, or EPA's Indoor Air Quality Information Clearinghouse, 1-800-438-4318.

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## *Halons And Methyl Bromide Affected*

### EPA Speeds Up Phaseout Of Ozone Depleters

EPA announced on January 19 a proposal to fully phase out the **domestic production and imports** of the following by January 1, 1996: **CFCs, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform, and HBFCs** (hydrobromofluorocarbons).

**Halons**, the most severe ozone depleters (used mainly as a fire extinguisher), would be phased out two years earlier.

Along with HBFCs, the proposal adds a new substance to the phase-out list, **methyl bromide** (January 1,

2000). Methyl bromide is a widely used soil fumigant and agricultural chemical. EPA and the Department of Agriculture, along with users of the pesticide, are working together to develop environmentally sound and economically feasible alternatives.

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 required these phaseouts, but originally set more lenient phaseout deadlines. Because of the unanticipated increases in the rate of stratospheric ozone depletion, EPA

is taking advantage of the CAA provision to accelerate the deadlines. The phaseouts under the EPA proposal would also meet the United States' obligations under the **Montreal Protocol**, an international agreement limiting ozone-depleting substances. To date, 93 countries have agreed to the protocol.

For technical information on the phaseout proposal, please contact **Peter Voigt**, OAR, 202-233-9185.

## Agency Makes Interim Decision EPA Returns To 1987 Wetlands Manual

Exactly one week before the Bush Administration ended, EPA announced it would temporarily begin using the 1987 "Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual" (Waterways Experiment Station Technical Report Y-87-1, January, 1987) to make wetlands determinations under the Clean Water Act (CWA) section 404 regulatory program. Meanwhile, the Agency is contracting with the National Academy of Sciences to prepare a scientific analysis of wetlands delineation. The analysis will also include an evaluation of the existing wetlands delineation manuals.

Under section 404, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers delineates wetlands as part of the evaluation process for permit applications to fill wetlands. EPA has general authority under the CWA for establishing the scope of geographic jurisdiction for all CWA programs, including section 404, and conducts wetlands delineations in conjunction with EPA wetlands enforcement actions. The Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service and the Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service are also responsible for identifying wetlands.

Before 1989, EPA and the Corps had separate procedures for identifying and delineating wetlands. In January 1989, the four agencies adopted a single shared manual, the "1989 Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands." Nationwide mandatory use of this manual led to an increase in the amount of area classified as wetlands. In August 1991, the Corps resumed using the 1987 manual in

response to the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1992, which prohibited the Corps from using the 1989 manual. Until the January 13, 1993 announcement, EPA continued to use the 1989 manual in making its jurisdictional determinations, primarily for enforcing section 404 against unauthorized discharges into wetlands.

Each of the four agencies has a definition of wetlands for its wetlands program. Although the methods used for wetlands delineation have varied, EPA's definition of wetlands is identical to



the Corps' definition. Both are similar to the wetlands definitions of the SCS and the FWS. All of the definitions include three basic elements: hydrology (water characteristics); vegetation types; and soil characteristics.

### EPA Proposes Reformulated Fuel Rule

On January 19, EPA issued a supplemental notice to a previous proposed rulemaking to require the use of reformulated gasoline in nine areas of the country with the worst ozone pollution. The program, required under the 1990 Clean Air Act, is scheduled to begin January 1, 1995, in Baltimore, MD; Chicago, IL; Hartford, CT; Houston, TX; Los Angeles, CA; Milwaukee, WI; New York City, NY; Philadelphia, PA; and San Diego, CA. When fully implemented, the rule is expected to reduce volatile organic chemical (VOC) emissions up to 37 percent; nitrogen oxide emissions up to 15 percent; and toxic emissions up to 25 percent. The rule also proposes to enhance the use of ethanol in reformulated gasoline.

For more information, please contact Rick Rykowski, Regulation Development and Support Division (Ann Arbor, MI), Office of Mobile Sources, OAR, 313-668-4339.

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# Carol Browner

*Continued from page 1*

year old son, **Zachary**, now in kindergarten, and husband **Michael Podhozer**.

The Senate unanimously confirmed Ms. Browner's appointment on January 21, and she was sworn into office by **President Bill Clinton** the next day. A week later, *EPA InSight* interviewed the new Administrator. "When I heard EPA had an employee newsletter, I was delighted," she said. "We didn't have one when I first became Secretary of Environmental Regulation in Florida. But we did by the time I left." She emphasized that **employee**

**communications** has always been important to her and does not plan to delegate it to her deputy. Ms. Browner added that she is eager to meet regional and laboratory employees "in the very near future" and to discuss their interests and concerns.

**"In the meantime, I hope EPA employees will introduce themselves to me," said the new Administrator. "I don't care if I'm in the elevator or buying lunch, I want to meet them!"**

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## Excerpts from Conference Hearing

**I** am deeply honored to be here today to be considered for the position of Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency....

I am proud to have my family here with me today...I grew up in South Florida, in a house from which I could bicycle into the wilderness of the Everglades, and I want my son Zachary to be able to...enjoy the natural wonders of the United States the same way I have....

I welcome this opportunity to begin a dialogue that I hope will set a new standard of cooperation and communication between Congress and the EPA...I also hope my tenure will mark a new era in communication between the EPA and



*EPA Administrator-Designate Carol Browner testifies at her Senate confirmation hearing on January 11*

*Editor's Note: EPA Administrator Carol Browner recently issued two memoranda to all EPA employees:*

- *Excerpt from memo dated January 25: "Now that I've been sworn in, I look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks and months and benefitting from your counsel. The environmental expertise, professionalism and dedication of the staff here are well known to me personally and well respected nationally."*
- *Excerpt from memo dated January 27: "As part of my confirmation process, I agreed to recuse myself from...any EPA matter which involves the State of Florida as a specific party and in which I was personally and substantially involved...For one year from...January 21, 1993, any EPA matter which specifically involves the State of Florida or any of its political subdivisions...So long as my spouse, Michael A. Podhozer, is an employee of Citizen Action, any particular matter involving a specific party or parties with respect to which Citizen Action makes a communication or appearance before EPA."*

America's business community, between environmentalists and business people....

EPA must deliver quick, consistent decisions. We must recognize the special problems of small businesses...the particular concerns of businesses and communities affected by environmental problems (and) the value of state regulators. EPA should promote, encourage and develop rewards for businesses that develop pollution prevention and recycling strategies....

As head of the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation, I had the opportunity to put many of these strategies into effect at the state level....

We must restore voluntary compliance with the nation's environmental laws by making them fair and efficient, by forcefully executing them, and by increasing public disclosure of environmental practices....

I believe we can best join the need for balancing growth and the environment by unleashing American ingenuity and creativity to revive our economy and create a new generation of environmental technology—which...will make us more competitive in a fast-growing international marketplace....

**The EPA is staffed by thousands of dedicated, professional employees, with whom I am looking forward to working. I hope to support their efforts, and make a talented group of men and women even more effective, by expanding the pool of people working to protect the environment....**

# Happy Birthday,

## EPA InSight

### How To Get Into EPA's All-Employee Newsletter

**EPA InSight** has been around now for a year. During that time, many employees have asked how they could get something published in it. That's very gratifying and we hope the interest continues. Here's what works best:

- Keep the article short (**about 300 words**) and informative.
- Assume that employees don't know what **you** do about the subject of your article—and **avoid technical jargon**.
- Put your information **in context**. A good way to do this is to explain how the subject came to be, e.g., from authorizing legislation to its current status. Then, describe what lies ahead, such as important deadlines or anticipated reactions from constituency groups. Also helpful is trend information or statistical comparisons.
- Write only when you have **something significant** to write about. For example, before writing about a group initiative, wait until the group has accomplished something! Two exceptions to this "rule" are: when a group's membership is open to all EPA employees, or when a group wants to hear from employees on a specific issue.
- Include an interesting **picture, chart, graph, logo, etc.**, with your article. We also welcome calendar items, quotes, cartoons, and environmental "tips."
- **Please don't use paper**. Send your material by Email, diskette, or Voice Mail.

—**By when?**: Generally, the first week of the month **before** *InSight* is to be published (e.g., Friday, February 5, for the March edition).

—**To whom?**: Either your **Editorial Board Member** (see last page) or **Kym Burke, Editor**/Email: BURKE.KYM/Fax: 202-260-0231/Voice Mail: 202-260-0336/U.S. EPA, 401 M St., SW, Rm.3623M, Wash., D.C. 20460/Mail Code: A-107.

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When the Email menu is on your screen:

- **Type VTX** (press Enter)
- **Type 2** (press Enter)
- **Type a number from 1** (Feb.'92 edition) **through 13** (Feb.'93 edition). Then press **Enter**—and enjoy!

#### EPA EMPLOYEE COMMENT FORM

Dear EPA Employee:

Your suggestions for improving *EPA InSight* are important to us. Would you please take a moment to fill out this form so that we may serve you better in the future? Please send your completed form - or call or send an Email - to either your Editorial Board Member (see last page) or Kym Burke, Editor (see this page for address, etc.).

What would you like *EPA InSight* to **start** covering?

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What would you like *EPA InSight* to **stop** covering?

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As an effort to help the Agency move towards paperless communications, *EPA InSight* is available each month on Email. In terms of source reduction, what can **your** organization do to reduce the number of copies of *EPA InSight* it receives and yet still give employees **equal access** to the information?

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Other comment/suggestions:

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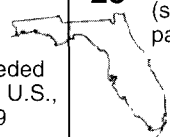
Phone Number/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU !

# Calendar

## Black History Month 1993

# February

Jan 31 - Thrift Savs. Plan "Open Season" ends	<b>1</b> U.S. Supreme Court held 1st session, 1790	<b>2</b> Check Your "Check" for Pay Raise!	<b>3</b> Govtwide Ethics Rules In Effect	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Copy deadline for March <i>EPA InSight</i>	<b>6</b> EPA Leave Bank "Open Season" ends
<b>7</b> 2nd Anniversary of 33/50 Program	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Deputies Leadership Team Mtg Acid Rain Conference (703-339-2464)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <i>EPA InSight</i> Editorial Board Meeting	<b>12</b> Abraham Lincoln born, 1809	<b>13</b> 
Feb 7-13 — Scouting Anniversary Week						
<b>14</b> Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> Federal Holiday: Presidents' Day	<b>16</b> (see page 2)	<b>17</b> (see page 2)	<b>18</b> (see page 2)	<b>19</b> Edison patented phonograph, 1878	<b>20</b> Frederick Douglass born, 1817 (see page 3)
Feb 14-20 — National Engineers' Week						
<b>21</b> Washington Monument completed, 1885	<b>22</b> Spain ceded Florida to U.S., 1819	<b>23</b> (see page 2) 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Fedl. income tax began, 1913	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Deadline for HQ summer job applications						

- March 1 — **Rebecca Lee**, 1st black woman to receive medical degree, 1864
- March 3 — Dept. of Interior created, 1849  
— Civ. Serv Comm (now OPM) created, 1871
- March 4 — Govt Printing Office opened, 1861
- March 5 — Copy deadline for April *EPA InSight*
- March 6 — 1st auto appeared on U.S. streets, 1896

### On The Horizon...

- On The Move  
—Who's Coming, Who's Going
- WTI v. East Liverpool, OH  
—A Hot Issue for EPA
- Update on Contracts Management  
—What's An "IGCE"?
- March Is: Women's History Month
- EPA Grants For "Colonias"  
—Wastewater Treatment Imperative
- Safer Pesticides Policy

### EPA InSight

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